

REMARKS

The amendment of paragraphs 9, 10 and 25 is believed to correct the informalities pointed out in the examiners action.

Changes have not been made in the drawings because the new claims presented define only features disclosed in the drawings.

The informality objection to claims 6, 10, 14 and 15-17 is no longer relevant because those claims have been cancelled.

New independent claim 21 is believed to patentably define applicant's invention over the cited references.

Reddick prevents longitudinal movement of a pair of bars 60, 82 which are mounted on the inside of a door and are interconnected so as to retract horizontally between locked and unlocked positions.

Applicant's invention provides protective latching for preventing rotation of a stanchion which rotates about its axis between locking and unlocking positions. In the Reddick locking device a lock 66 is inserted into the cavity 40 between a side 48 and a portion 52 and has a slot 69 which fits over a tab 61 on the longitudinally shiftable bar 60. The tab 61 has an eyelet 67 which receives the locking pin 72 of the lock 66.

In the United States and many foreign countries most of the truck mounted cargo containers with two rearwardly swinging doors hinged on vertical axes at laterally opposite rear sides of the container and have a vertically disposed stanchion on the outside of each of the two outwardly opening doors. The stanchions are individually rotatable between locked and unlocked positions. The manufacturers of cargo containers typically do not provide locking arrangements adequate to secure the container against break in. The loss of goods from break-

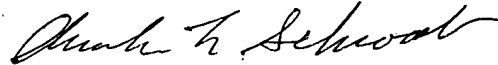
ins is estimated in the billions. There are a tremendous number of existing cargo container trucks with inadequate protection against thieves with bolt cutters, power hack saws and sledge hammers. Applicants latching device is directed to the security of the before mentioned cargo containers. It is designed primarily as an after market product which can be readily added to an existing truck cargo container at a reasonable cost.

New claim 21 defines a latching device for a container door with a locking stanchion on its outer side which is rotatable about its axis between locking and unlocking positions. The control rods 60, 82 of Reddick can only shift longitudinally and they are on the inside of the door. Claim 21 defines a locking pin receiving aperture in the stanchion in intersecting relation to its axis. Reddick does not disclose such a construction. Claim 21 defines a rigid housing having a sidewall structure defining a chamber with a front opening and a partition wall dividing the chamber into an outer compartment in which the lock is disposed and an inner compartment. The partition wall is defined as being parallel to the back wall of the housing and as having a centrally positioned pin guiding channel. This structure is not found in Reddick. Further, claim 21 defines a locking pin having a cylindrical portion extending through an opening in the sidewall structure and a tab extending through the pin guiding channel. There is no comparable feature in Reddick. In view of these distinctions and in view of Reddick not being suitable for latching a rotating stanchion; it is believed claim 21 patentable defines applicants latching device and is in allowable condition.

New dependent claims 22-24 are believed allowable for the reasons advanced for allowance of parent claim 21 and because of their further definition of applicants locking device.

A notice of allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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